

Recycled Aggregate



Approximately two billion tons of aggregate are used annually and demand is expected to increase 25 percent by the year 2020.

With demand increasing, new sources of quality aggregates are difficult to site in California. Because of this, during the past 30 years, recycled aggregate – a product that comes from crushing old concrete and asphalt for use as base material in road projects – has become a popular, environmentally preferred material that meets Caltrans' specifications and has a proven performance track record.

Good for the Bottom Line

Recycled aggregate can provide a significant cost savings. The amount of money saved for a project can range from \$3 to \$10 a ton. Recycled aggregate can save up to \$53,000 per lane mile when it is used in place of virgin, mined aggregate.

Good for the Community

Recycled aggregate has many uses. While the primary use is base in road projects, recycled aggregate can also be used as concrete in sidewalks, gutters and curbs, gravel road surfacing, building foundation base and as fill for utility trenches.

Recycled aggregate is readily available. Because of the demand for the product, there are approximately 100 producers of recycled aggregate in California. Visit the CIWMB's Web site to locate a producer in your region.

Good for the Environment

Recycled aggregate can help you meet your diversion goals. By using recycled aggregate, 6,500 tons of aggregate can be diverted from the average California landfill yearly. Using recycled aggregate can also extend the life of virgin aggregate mines and reduce the need to site new ones.

Success Stories

In 2005, San Mateo County adopted a policy specifying that recycled aggregate be the preferred material for all non-structural concrete applications, including but not limited to sidewalks, base material, and sub base material. Suppliers have been able to provide the material needed at the

same or lower cost, and results have been favorable. Not only has the county been able to implement this policy without added cost to the taxpayers, it supports the County's long term goal to reduce the amount of material that needs to be landfilled.



"By using recycled aggregate, we were able to be efficient, save money and help our environment. It was an easy choice for San Mateo County."

— Diana Shu, Senior Engineer
Public Works Department of San Mateo County

Contact Information

To learn more about how your jurisdiction can benefit from recycled aggregate, visit www.ciwmb.ca.gov/condemo or call (916) 341-6500.